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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its substantive session of 1994, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1994/37 of 29 July 1994 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council.

2. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/41 of 9 December 1994, in paragraph 19 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. Taking into account the above-mentioned resolutions, the President is of the view that the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations should strengthen existing measures of support and formulate additional programmes of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Most of these Territories are islands, small in size and population, geographically isolated and vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and cyclones. They are also relatively undeveloped economically and therefore are particularly dependent on external assistance. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional organizations, should therefore be invited to examine and review conditions in each of the Territories, commensurate with the pressing needs of the peoples concerned for increased transfer of resources, technology and know-how, and take appropriate measures to accelerate economic and social progress.

4. In accordance with the terms of Council resolution 1994/37, the President of the Council maintained close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee during the period under review and, on the basis of those contacts and in the light of related developments, submits to the Council the observations set out below, with a view to facilitating Council consideration of the present item.

5. During the year, members of the Council and the Special Committee followed closely the work of their respective bodies relating to the item. The President considers it both useful and essential that such contacts and cooperation continue to be maintained and strengthened to mobilize the maximum possible assistance to the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. According to the information provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, during the period under review a number of specialized agencies and organizations have continued to extend assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in response to the

relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of assistance from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of assistance.

7. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. The President of the Council notes that the recalculated fifth cycle (1992-1996) indicative planning figures (IPFs), constituting 70 per cent of original IPFs established for some of those Territories, including estimated cost sharing, cover the following: Anguilla, US$ 747,000; British Virgin Islands, $543,000; Cayman Islands, $270,000; Montserrat, $337,000; Saint Helena, $983,000; Tokelau, $838,000; and Turks and Caicos Islands, $680,000. These amounts cover assistance in the primary economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries industry, transportation, communication and power generation, as well as in the social and educational sectors, and are being executed by a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in close cooperation, where appropriate, with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

8. In respect of Anguilla, the UNDP programme of assistance for the period 1992-1996 is described in document DP/CP/ANL/2: Second Country Programme for Anguilla, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992. The total resources for this programme are $1,202,000, which includes the IPF allocation of $1,149,000 and cost-sharing commitments of $53,000. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of Anguilla, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for human resources development, reform of the public sector, as well as environmental and natural resources management. Within the area of human resources development (HRD), the programme has focused on education and in particular on teacher training. Some 100 per cent of primary school teachers have been trained, up from 60 per cent at the start of the cycle.

9. Bermuda, with a per capita income of $10,280 in 1983 and of $27,000 in 1991, according to the Bermuda Monetary Authority, has been affected by UNDP Net Contributor Country (NCC) provisions. The country does have a fourth cycle IPF carry-over of $48,000 but short of an ongoing Country Programme with UNDP, it has not been issued an IPF for the UNDP fifth programming cycle. However by decision 91/29 of the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session in June 1991, Bermuda, like other NCCs, is entitled to participate in other components of the UNDP Programme, including projects financed from the regional and interregional IPF and from special programme resources (SPR). The Caribbean component of the Fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, described in document DP/RLA/4 has made provision for technical assistance in the amount of $7 million to benefit the countries of CARICOM, and in which Bermuda enjoys observer status in selected institutions and ministerial bodies. Quite recently the Government of Bermuda has given tentative indications of its willingness to explore the possibilities of enhanced cooperation with the United Nations system.

10. The UNDP programme of assistance for the British Virgin Islands for the period 1995-1996 is described in document DP/CP/BVI/3: Third Country Programme for the British Virgin Islands, approved by the UNDP Executive Board in April 1995. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the British Virgin Islands, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support to provide policy advice and inputs for institutional strengthening, primarily aiming at the formulation of an integrated development strategy.

11. In the first year of the programme, the following will be in place: (a) a framework for the strategy will be established; (b) an intersectoral committee appointed; and (c) data collection will be concluded. During the second year, policy formulation will be fine-tuned on the basis of feedback from the public and political entities, sectoral activities will be clearly defined, a project data bank will have been established, and government personnel will have acquired the necessary skills for successful implementation of the strategy. Actual implementation of the integrated development strategy is expected to commence by 1997.

12. The British Virgin Islands, with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of $10,329 in 1991, has been affected by NCC provisions during the fifth UNDP programming cycle. Accordingly, the British Virgin Islands has only been issued a reimbursable IPF of $97,000 for the remainder of UNDP's fifth programming cycle (1995-1996). However, by decision 91/29 of the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session in June 1991, British Virgin Islands, like other NCC countries, is entitled to fully participate in other components of the UNDP Programme, including projects financed from the regional and interregional IPF and from special programme resources (SPR).

13. The British Virgin Islands are eligible for UNDP assistance under the Fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, described in document DP/RLA/4. The Caribbean component of this regional programme has made provision for technical assistance in the amount of $7 million to benefit the countries of CARICOM, where the British Virgin Islands enjoy associate membership since July 1991 and Montserrat continues to be the only non-independent member State.

14. As regards the Cayman Islands, the UNDP programme of assistance for the period 1993-1996 is described in document DP/CP/CAY/3: Third Country Programme for the Cayman Islands, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in February 1993. The total resources for this programme are $1,457,000, which includes the IPF entitlement of $163,000 and cost-sharing commitments of $1,294,000. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Cayman Islands, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for human resources development and economic planning and management. HRD is primarily directed at strengthening administrative, managerial and technical skills in selected Government departments. Economic planning and management seeks to promote effective management of public expenditure and more active involvement of the Government in macroeconomic planning through improved fiscal management and the rationalization and integration of planning mechanisms.

15. The UNDP programme of assistance for Montserrat for the period 1992-1996 is described in document DP/CP/MOT/3: Third Country Programme for Montserrat, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992. The total resources for this programme are $521,000, which includes the IPF entitlement of $434,000 and cost-sharing commitments of $87,000. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of Montserrat, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for environmental and natural resources management, an area which has absorbed more than 90 per cent of the available resources. There has been substantial progress in the establishment of a physical planning unit to direct natural resource management and in the preparation of an environmental profile of the island and an inventory of its historical, archaeological, cultural and natural resources.

16. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, as associate members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), as well as Montserrat, as a full member of OECS, benefit from the Multi-Island Programme (1992-1996) for the Eastern Caribbean, described in document DP/CP/CAR/5, which was also approved by the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992. The UNDP IPF resources for this programme, which concentrates on Management development, environmental protection and resource management, and poverty reduction amount to $4 million.

17. The UNDP programme of assistance for the Turks and Caicos Islands for the period 1993-1996 is described in document DP/CP/TCI/3: Third Country Programme for the Turks and Caicos Islands, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in February 1993. The total Fifth Cycle IPF entitlement under this programme amounts to $910,000. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for public sector management, education and environmental management. UNDP resources were primarily used to provide technical services in key areas of the public sector. The provision of a computerized data collection system for customs allows the Government to access accurate statistical data for planning purposes and increases its revenue inflows. At the sectoral level, a review of the country's education system has provided the Government with options to be pursued in streamlining the system to meet labour market trends.

18. Anguilla, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands receive UNDP assistance under the Fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, described in document DP/RLA/4. The Caribbean component of this Regional Programme has made provision for technical assistance in the amount of $7 million to benefit the countries of CARICOM. The Turks and Caicos Islands enjoy associate membership, while Anguilla and the Cayman Islands have observer status in selected institutions and ministerial bodies.

19. In response to the Programme of Action ensuing from the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which took place in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994, two aspects of the Programme of Action are receiving particular UNDP attention. They are: (a) the establishment of the collaborative small island developing States network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate access by these States to vital environmental information; and (b) the implementation of a technical assistance programme

(SIDS/TAP), which will, among other things, support the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, and in particular address capacity-building constraints of SIDS in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

20. Also in response to the SIDS Programme of Action, UNDP has launched a regional Capacity 21-funded Project, which bears potential benefit for Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, since it will eventually extend its assistance to more than the six pilot countries within the Caribbean region, with the objective to strengthen their capacities to manage and implement sustainable development plans and programmes at the local, the national and the regional levels.

21. UNDP/Apia's Third Country Programme for Tokelau (1992-1996) focused primarily on developing a national identity and assumption of a greater degree of self-government; improvement of living standards on the atolls; ensuring the equitable distribution of resources; and encouraging the active participation of people in the development policy. These were to be achieved through the development of their transport communications system, and the enhancement and supplementation of their present subsistence lifestyle. Tokelau has progressed significantly towards the achievement of those goals with significant assistance from UNDP in the third country programme although since 1993 there has been a marked shift in the local government's focus towards political and constitutional strengthening.

22. Traditionally, Tokelau has a strong local government system based at the atoll village level, with each of the atolls independently administering their own affairs. The current political changes, which have seen the establishment of the General Fono (Parliament by Westminster standards) as the paramount decision-making body whose powers are vested in the Council of Faipule (the executive arm of the Government or Cabinet) when it is not in session, aim to institute a national government system. The Council of Faipule comprises three Faipule or political leaders of each of the three atolls, who are respectively chosen by their local constituents on a three-year election cycle. The political leaders rotate annually in holding the position of Head of the Council of Faipule (or Ulu o Tokelau), a Tokelau-unique solution to ensuring that political leadership and authority is shared amongst the atolls.

23. Since 1993 therefore, the main developmental concerns for the country have centred squarely on political adjustments and strengthening - with the delegation of the Administrator of Tokelau's (a senior diplomat in New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) powers and authority to Tokelau's General Fono and the Council of Faipule when the General Fono is not in session - and developing the decision-making capacity of those new national political structures, and reformation and relocation of the Tokelau Public Service. These factors are intertwined and have predominated Tokelau's developmental thinking over the past three years.

24. This heightened political awareness and development activity have to some extent come from the United Nations which, by General Assembly resolutions 48/47; 48/46; 48/51; 48/52 and 48/53 in 1993, was mandated to assist all Non-Self-Governing Territories to attain self-determination and/or independence

from colonial or other forms of foreign administration and control, by the target year 2000. ECOSOC resolution 1994/37 which reconfirms the United Nations resolution to extend all appropriate assistance to such nations is firmly in the forefront of the UNDP efforts for Tokelau which will continue into the next country programme in appropriate ways.

25. A Special Committee of 24 Mission to Tokelau in July 1994, found that most Tokelauans, although they were taking these major steps towards the eventual attainment of a greater degree of self-government, wished at this point of their national political strategy to maintain a relationship of "free association" with New Zealand.

I. SUPPORT BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

26. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to provide assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. At present, the Organization is executing a project on forestry development and is participating as the implementation agency in a project aimed at enhancing the production and export of fresh fruits through the control of fruit flies in the South Pacific, covering some countries, e.g. Tokelau, which are still under colonial rule. Two subregional meetings were held for the South Pacific Islands within the context of the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition. These meetings, one of which was organized by FAO and the other by WHO, were jointly sponsored by the two organizations.

27. In addition, the participation of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat in the Amblyomma variegatum Eradication Programme, presently under its initial phase, has been envisaged.

28. There were no country projects for Tokelau since it was not a member of the organization; assistance was available, however, through regional projects which cover a number of countries in the region that are members of UNDP. Such assistance was provided Tokelau in the fields of forestry development and fisheries. The Regional Fisheries Support and National Capacity-Building programmes assisted Tokelau in establishing private sector linkage with alternative tuna product development and marketing.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

29. Although Tokelau was not a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it had participated in a limited number of programmes through the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. Tokelau had taken part in the high-level consultative meetings of the education sector held at Suva, Fiji, at the end of May 1994.

30. Tokelau is receiving direct assistance under the Basic Education and Life Skills programme with funding allocated for primary and literacy education; educational systems planning and management; curriculum innovations for life

skills; and programme implementation and appraisal. UNESCO has also encouraged the collection of oral history and traditions as well as the participation of Tokelau in the Festival of Pacific Arts, a regional cultural activity programme.

31. In 1991, at the request of the Government of New Zealand, the UNESCO Communication Sector funded a two-part radio broadcasting feasibility study for Tokelau covering transmission systems and studio facilities. Ninety-eight per cent of the people of Tokelau are literate.

World Health Organization

32. Tokelau, as an associate member of the World Health Organization (WHO), attended regional meetings and received benefits from a number of programmes. It has a healthy population and reasonably good health service infrastructure. Improvement to X-ray equipment as well as to the operating facilities on Nukunonu were needed. WHO had been actively involved with the Tokelau Department of Health in planning programmes concerning needs for the future. A regular country programme budget of approximately US$ 50,000 for the current biennium had been provided for the Territory. In addition, US$ 20,000 was available for the prevention of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). WHO had also collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the establishment of a maternal, child health and family planning programme for Tokelau. WHO provided funds for the participation of Tokelauans at WHO training workshops and regional meetings. A WHO fellowship enabled a medical undergraduate to undergo training in Fiji. In September 1994, an associate professional water and sanitation engineer from WHO assisted Tokelauans in this field. The organization supported an immunization programme aimed at providing 100 per cent population coverage. WHO also provided direct support for programmes involving managerial development in health services, primary health care and health promotion.

33. Certain diseases associated with modern Western lifestyles had begun to appear in Tokelau. There was a high rate of cigarette consumption. Infant and maternal mortality rates, however, were low.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRAINFORTRADE

34. In the context of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) TRAINFORTRADE regional training project for countries and Territories of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which started in mid-1994, four training seminars have to date been held in the region on the following subjects: Trade with European Single Market countries, Trade and the environment, and The new multilateral trade framework and its implications for CARICOM countries. The British Virgin Islands (associate member of the OECS) were represented at all four seminars.

35. A subregional, multi-subject training project for the five British dependent Territories of the Caribbean (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands) has been under consideration. It provides for a distinct human resource development approach to be adopted in

favour of the five Territories where training needs are strongly influenced by the economic importance of trade in services.

36. Another TRAINFORTRADE project for non-OECS countries of CARICOM is also under consideration and expected to begin before the end of 1995. This project will benefit the Turks and Caicos Islands as a member of the CARICOM grouping.

37. The TRAINFORTRADE regional project for ACP countries of the Pacific region began in April 1995. Although the project is to benefit eight independent countries of the region, it is understood that member Territories of the South Pacific Forum Secretariat which are not ACP States may receive courtesy invitations to send participants to regional training events. This concerns Tokelau, which is a Non-Self-Governing Territory in association with New Zealand and with substantial autonomy in the conduct of their domestic affairs. 1/

Technical cooperation relating to offshore financial activities

38. The UNDP Office in Barbados has requested the UNCTAD secretariat to assist the Government of Anguilla in devising a strategy for the development of offshore financial activities in that Territory. The UNCTAD secretariat has responded to this request with a proposal for immediate action. In this regard, a project document providing for high-level consultations has been submitted to UNDP.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

39. The UNDP Office in Barbados has also requested the UNCTAD secretariat for assistance in the preparation of a pilot programme of technical cooperation with Eastern Caribbean countries and Territories to construct an "alternative indicator of development performance" which would complement per capita GDP, considering that the latter fails to reflect a number of island-specific disabilities and does not provide information on the sustainability of the economic development of island States. This area of concern is shared by several Eastern Caribbean States and relates to an issue which has been under consideration at the global level for a number of years. Among Territories seeking UNCTAD's assistance and voicing their interest in an alternative indicator are Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

40. The UNCTAD secretariat is presently preparing a project to construct the alternative indicator and conduct a regional pilot survey for applying the indicator to a sample of countries, including the two above-mentioned British dependent Territories.

41. This exercise is in line with the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which proposes that "relevant international organizations (be) invited to contribute to the development of a ('vulnerability') index" and "other indicators that reflect the status of small island developing States and integrate ecological fragility and economic vulnerability" (chap. XV, paras. 113 and 114).

II. CONCLUSION

42. Subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fiftieth session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council, the President of the Council shall continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Notes

1/ It is also envisaged that a TRAINFORTRADE regional project for the French Overseas Territories of the Pacific (New Caledonia ...) could complement the ongoing TRAINFORTRADE project for ACP countries of the Pacific, for the benefit of trade managers of the French Territories as well as to enhance intra-regional trade between English-speaking countries and French-speaking Territories of the region.

It should be noted that the French Overseas Departments and Territories are not among the Non-Self-Governing Territories referred to in the General Assembly resolutions relating to the Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/49/615): resolution 49/46: Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands; resolution 49/47: Question of Tokelau.

It is assumed that ECOSOC resolution 1994/37 (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations) referring to the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples takes into consideration the same dependent Territories as those considered by the Fourth Committee, and therefore does not include the French Départements d'Outre-Mer and Territoires d'Outre-Mer.